

354. EFFECT OF BICYCLOL ON LIVER INJURY INDUCED BY ALCOHOL IN MICE

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Alcoholic liver disease (ALD) encompasses a wide spectrum of lesions, including alcoholic steatosis (fatty liver), alcoholic hepatitis, alcoholic fibrosis and cirrhosis. Bicyclol, a synthetic new drug for the treatment of chronic HBV and HCV, had significant protective effect on the elevation of serum ALT and liver TG; the induction of NDMA-demethylase and the depletion of liver GSH; the pathological alterations such as hepatocyte swelling and fatty degeneration in mice fed with Lieber-DeCarli liquid diet containing 5% alcohol for 4 weeks. In addition, the cytosolic ALDH, GST and GR activities were increased by 190%, 40% and 45% after bicyclol pretreatment. Alcohol induced a drastic elevation of alcohol dehydrogenase (150%) and aldehyde dehydrogenase (33%) activity in hepatic mitochondria in mice. After treatment of bicyclol, 46% inhibition of alcohol dehydrogenase and 20% induction of aldehyde dehydrogenase in mitochondria were found in mice subjected to acute alcohol toxicity. The mitochondria membrane fluidity and swelling which reflect the damage of hepatic mitochondria induced by alcohol was also improved by bicyclol treatment. The results suggested that the hepatoprotective effect of bicyclol on liver injury induced by alcohol was partly due to the anti-lipid peroxidation, modulation of alcohol metabolizing enzymes and liver GSH regeneration.

355. ESSENTIAL ROLE OF NRF2 IN PROTECTION AGAINST OVARIAN FOLLICLE LOSS INDUCED BY 4-VINYLCYCLOHEXENE AND 4-VINYLCYCLOHEXENE DIEPOXIDE IN MICEXiaoming Hu¹, Jenny Roberts², Yuet Wai Kan³, and Qiang Ma¹

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Occupational chemicals 4-Vinylcyclohexene (VCH) and 4-vinylcyclohexene diepoxide (VCD) selectively destroy oocytes in small pre-antral follicles leading to premature ovarian failure in animals. Metabolism of VCH and VCD by phase I and phase II enzymes plays important roles in the ovotoxicity. Nrf2 is a member of the CNC bZip family of transcription factors that mediates the basal expression and induction of phase II genes such as *Nqo1* and *Gst*. We examined the role of Nrf2-regulated gene expression in the ovotoxicity of VCH and VCD by using Nrf2 knockout mice. Immature (28 days old) female wild-type and Nrf2 ^{-/-} mice were treated with VCH or VCD using established protocols; 4 h following the final dose, ovaries were collected. Complete serial sections of ovaries were evaluated histologically for the presence of follicles. Primordial and primary follicle numbers in ovaries from wild type mice decreased significantly ($p < 0.05$) by either VCH or VCD. However, the follicles in ovaries from Nrf2 ^{-/-} mice exhibit much higher sensitivity to the toxicity of VCH and VCD than those of wild type. Together, these results demonstrate that loss of Nrf2 function is associated with increased sensitivity to toxicity of VCH and VCD on ovary follicular development. Currently, phase II enzyme-related mechanisms are being investigated in ovaries for increased sensitivity to ovarian toxicity of VCH and VCD.

Journal Title: Drug metabolism reviews
Volume: 36
Issue: Sup 1
Month: Aug
Year: 2004
Inclusive Pages: 177
Article Author: Hui XM, Roberts J, Kan YW, Ma Q
Article Title: Essential role of NRF2 in protection against ovari
Item Author:
Item Place:
Item Publisher:
Item Edition:
ISSN/ISBN: 0360-2532
Cited In:
Cited Title:
Cited Date:
Cited Volume:
Cited Pages:
Not Wanted After: 08/10/2008
Accept Non English: Yes
Accept Alternate Edition: No
Due Date:
Renewals Allowed?:
Max Cost: